

NSC BRIEFING - 22 March 1956

1. Attempt to destroy Stalin tradition presents grave problems for Soviet Union and real opportunity for Western World attack - overt and covert.
2. If Stalin degraded then Mau takes his place along side of Lenin.
3. For 25 years Stalin not only Soviet dictator but also leading theoretician and great war hero. They, therefore, have three-

fold task of destruction:

*Here problems + questions*

- a) Tens of millions of copies of his works are scattered throughout the Soviet Union, Stalin on Leninism, Short History of Communist Party, etc., etc. Can they remove and burn these?
- b) Every history book filled with Stalin eulogies. Also Encyclopaedia Britannica (refer to Beria.) -
- c) If Stalin a gangster, what is position of other members of the gang? *Malotkov* ~~Malenkov~~ worked with him for 40 years; Khrushchev held key job under him for 18 years, Bulganin, 21, Mikoyan 30, Kaganovich 28 and *Malenkov* ~~Malotkov~~ personal secretary and kept his black book for 27 years.

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2.

4. Who will really believe in collective leadership. Stalin ran through a series of collective leaderships:  
(Stalin-Zinoviev-Kamenev vs. Trotsky 1924-25); (Stalin-Bukharin-Rykov-Tomsky vs. Trotsky-Zinoviev-Kamenev 1925-27); (Stalin-Molotov-Voroshilov-Mikoyan vs. Bukharin-Rykov-Tomsky 1927-29).
5. Stalin was artisan of Soviet foreign policy for 25 years. ~~He~~ *are* <sup>to</sup> ~~of~~ these ~~should~~ now be repudiated. Example: Korea, Berlin, Rejection of Marshall Plan, etc. And do Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam agreements still stand?
6. Stalin real artisan of communization of European satellites.  
What will leadership in those satellites now do? Bierut leader ~~the~~ Polish Communism Party "died" in Moscow. ~~for~~ *after Congress*  
Rakosi must be trembling in Hungary and same true other satellite leaders to whom degradation Stalin incomprehensible.  
Trotsky memories should now be disinterested; , his murder by Stalin admitted.
7. How can Soviet people tell a Georgian dictatorship from a Ukranian dictatorship under Khrushchev? If Stalin is as bad as they say, should not Army move in and liquidate his long time henchmen who still run government? Should not all of Stalin's appointments throughout Soviet Union be reviewed and replaced?

3.

- 8 Name of Stalingrad should be changed; Stalinallee in Berlin and all places bearing his name; his body removed from mausoleum next to Lenin, statues and other mementoes destroyed.
9. Beria liquidated by Khrushchev-Malenkov collective leadership without even type of trial which Stalin allowed <sup>show</sup> ~~Tukhachevsky~~ <sup>may suggest</sup> and other alleged traitors. - <sup>Bukharin</sup>
- 10 ~~Serov assassin under Stalin now preparing Khrushchev-Bulganin~~  
~~England visit~~. Finally, if freedom to criticize to be restored in Soviet Union, who will cast first stone at present collective dictatorship?

ALGERIA

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- I. France is air-lifting two more NATO divisions from West Germany to Algeria, as reinforcements for approxi 190,000 troops already on scene (Map).
  - A. In fighting since 1 March, rebels' dead total some 500: French military losses total some 56.
  - B. During past week, rebels, who have previously concentrated attacks in rural areas, have exhibited new tactics.
    - 1. On 16 March, set fire to several French buildings in European center of city of Algiers and suburbs.
    - 2. Night of 16-17 March, set fire to public building in Tlemcen (a principal city in western Algeria).

C. 16-17 March also date of most

extensive engagement between French and rebels yet fought in 17-month-old guerrilla conflict. 150 miles east of Algiers, in department of Constantine, 107 rebels (including 2 chiefs) were killed in course of 36-hour running battle, during which French brought not only troops but tanks and jets to bear.

D. Settler delegates to Paris conference last week expressed fear that Algerian uprising will occur before end of March: claimed complete lack of protection for isolated farms, estimated that massacre of some 6,000 French farmers likely.

II. Rebel strength still believed to be from 20 to 40,000.

A. Overall command believed to be outside Algeria, possibly in Tripoli or Cairo.

1. Commander alleged to be Mohamed ben Bella (former warrant officer in French army, decorated after battle of Monte Cassino) who frequently seen in Tripoli, Cairo, Rome, Geneva, Madrid.
- B. Within Algeria, rebel units operate independent of one another: probably do not have rapid communications between units.
- C. Rebel recruitment believed on rise-- over 12,000 Algerian workers in France returned to Algeria in past two months, allegedly in response to rebel mobilization orders.
  1. Resident Lacoste now trying to block return any more.
- D. Rebel funds acquired by local assessment, extortion, and from Arab states.

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1. French press estimates that, to end '55, Arab states supplied \$172,000 (\$86,000 from Saudi Arabia; \$71,000 from Iraq, smaller amounts from Jordan, and even some from Pakistan and Indonesia).

III. Meanwhile, US ConGen Clark reports serious Algerian economic dislocation.

- A. Many public buildings, particularly schools, destroyed.
- B. Communications in state of near-collapse--derailments have seriously damaged rolling stock.
  1. Example: movement of iron ore from important Ouenza mine (over 2 million tons a year) "seriously" curtailed.
  2. In many areas, rebels cut telephone and telegraph lines at will.
- C. Even provision of food stuffs a serious

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- D. ConGen concludes that extensive re-habilitation is essential and must precede broad-scale economic program envisaged in Mollet's Algeria policy.
- IV. Elsewhere in French North Africa, no new problems in sight at mement.
  - A. In Morocco, declared "independent" on 2 March, cease-fire by Berber dissidents anticipated in near future.
  - B. Similar declaration of Tunisian "independence" came on 20 March.
- V. Meanwhile, French "nationalism" reportedly more evident today than any time since W W I.
  - A. All segments opinion reportedly giving fanatic support to maintenance French "position" Algeria.
  - B. Strong feeling "anti-Americanism" believed largely effort find scapegoat.



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C. Although Premier Mollet, other officials state no "official" complaint about US policy, they claim public opinion views US as opposing France.

D. French press has been major contributor to anti-American attitude.

VI. In effort counter rising sentiment, US Amb. Dillion on 20 Mar made Paris speech affirming US sympathy and support for "liberal" solution Algerian problem.

A. Initial French official and press reaction very favorable.

B. Nonetheless, influential & often critical Le Monde, despite favorable news-play, could not resist acid comment that Dillon speech was "victory of European and pro-French camp in State Department over the champions of 'anti-Colonialism' and appeasement of the Arabs".

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VII. Whole Algerian issue presents neat dilemma

for Communists, since USSR--recognizing France as weak link in NATO--hopes to weaken French alliance with West, promote "united front".

- A. Yet "correct" Soviet line on Algeria (i.e. support for rebels as champions oppressed nationalist) would mortally offend French, while reversal of line would damage Soviet prestige throughout Asia and particularly among new friends in Middle East.
- B. French Communists have already turned selves inside out on issue: upheld "independence" for Algeria until Oct '55, then shifted emphasis to "independence within French Union" for all North African areas, finally (12 Mar) voted down line for grant of broad powers to Mollet.

C. USSR, itself, has been walking on eggs.

In Oct 55, Khrushchev issued razor-edge statement, expressing hope for solution in North Africa satisfactory to all parties.

1. On 7 Mar., Amb Vinogradov told French Foreign Ministry that USSR "continued French presence" in North Africa, said to Mollet about same time: "it would be bad if Islam were to sweep all over Africa.